



Name: Oliver Essex

DOB: 19th May 1992

Grew up: Ipswich

Currently Living: Ipswich

Occupation: Freelance Delivery Skipper and Sailing Instructor. Waiter

Sailing/ Yacht Club:

Position on Boat: Bow, Helm, Trimmer. I can jump in anywhere i'm needed.

First sailing experience: Was before I could even walk or talk.

Greatest sailing goal: To complete the Volvo Ocean Race

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Completing a West-East transatlantic two handed.

Most memorable sailing experience: A headsail change and furling drum failure mid-Atlantic in 68knts of wind and 60ft waves the morning after the mast was struck by lightning.

Meet the sailor... I have set myself a personal goal of completing a solo transatlantic in the next 3 years.

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? *A strong, positive, get up and go attitude that is only spurred on by competition.*

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? *The most influential figures in my career so far are the individuals that have provided me with opportunities to sail and have given me huge range of different sailing experiences as well as teaching me everything that's enabled me to become a part of the academy.*



What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy?

I wish to broaden my knowledge and skills, particularly in areas such as racing tactics as well as increasing my list of contacts. My ultimate goal however is to achieve a professional status in the yacht racing world.

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?

In my eyes the Volvo Ocean Race is the ultimate race. Real white knuckle sailing on some of the most extreme boats in the most hostile environment. It also provides the opportunity to compete against the best sailors in the world.

Otherwise I would like to compete in the Med cup where the weather is guaranteed.

My worst moment (sailing)?

My first tall ships race, sailing from Norway across to Aberdeen and then South to Holland. I suffered severe sea sickness for three days straight. I couldn't eat anything and I couldn't sleep. It still didn't put me off sailing though and fortunately I don't suffer anymore. (touch wood)

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) 1st overall EAORA week.*
- 2) 1st overall Felixstowe Port Regatta*
- 3) 13th overall Tall Ships race*

Other notable achievements away from sailing?

I was granted a full cadetship to study as a Merchant Navy Officer at Warsash Maritime Academy.

Other interests away from sailing?

Rugby, Gym, Rowing, Music and generally anything outdoors.

What's your greatest fear or phobia?

Spiders ! I used to have a fear of heights but after a few trips up the mast it's something you just get more comfortable with.

Any famous relatives?!

I believe I may be related to the Earl of Essex who was be-headed in the tower of London.